

Abstract of the Disclosure

An optical pickup for a recording medium includes a light beam division and detection unit including receiving portions dividing an incident light beam reflected on the recording medium into a first light beam portion and a second light beam portion around the first light beam portion and converting the first and second light beam portions into first and second detection signals, respectively. A thickness variation detection circuit detects a variation in thickness of the recording medium according to the first and second detection signals and outputs a thickness variation signal indicative thereof.